

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 01474 161015Z

13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 DRC-01 AF-10 EUR-25

SSO-00 CCO-00 (ISO) W
----- 015913

R 160957Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4806

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1474

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, JO, IS

SUBJ: WEST BANK COLLEGE CLOSED BY ISRAELIS; WOMEN'S DEMONSTRATION

1. JERUSALEM POST REPORTS DEC 16 THAT WEST BANK COLLEGE OF BIR ZEIT WAS CLOSED INDEFINITELY BY ISRAELI MILITARY GOVERNMENT DEC 15 FOR AGITATION AND SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY. WE HAD HEARD REPORTS LATE IN WEEK OF DEMONSTRATIONS AT BIR ZEIT ON BEHALF OF EIGHT WEST BANKERS DEPORTED BY ISRAELIS TO JORDAN. ONE REPORT HAD IT THAT TANKS WERE BEING SENT IN TO BRING ORDER. IT WAS PRESUMABLY THESE DEMONSTRATIONS THAT LED TO CLOSING. BIR ZEIT, A PRIVATE ANGLICAN ARAB COLLEGE OF SOME 250 STUDENTS, HAS BEEN A CENTER OF PALESTINIAN NATIONALIST ACTIVITY FOR SOME TIME, ACTIVITY THAT CAME PARTICULARLY TO ISRAELI ATTENTION AFTER KILLING OF KAMAL NASSER BY ISRAELI FORCES IN RAID ON BEIRUT. NASSER WAS MEMBER OF NASSER FAMILY THAT RUNS COLLEGE.

2. ALSO ON DEC 15, GROUP OF EAST JERUSALEM ARAB WOMEN, SOME OF THEM WIVES OF PROMINENT CITIZENS, DEMONSTRATED AT RED CROSS (ICRC) OFFICE IN EAST JERUSALEM ON ISSUE OF DEPORTEES. IN COURSE OF FOLLOWING MARCH BY THE GROUP, A NUMBER WERE ARRESTED BY
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PAGE 02 JERUSA 01474 161015Z

ISRAELIS. AMONG THEM WERE WIFE OF ANWAR NUSEIBEH, FORMER

JORDANIAN CABINET MINISTER, AND WIFE OF ABU MAIZER, ONE OF
DEPORTEES. WOMEN WERE RELEASED FEW HOURS LATER.

3. COMMENT: IT IS BEGINNING TO SOUND LIKE 1967 AND 1968 AGAIN,
WHEN DEMONSTRATIONS BY WOMEN AND STUDENTS LED WIDESPREAD PUBLIC
PROTEST. CLOSING OF BIR ZEIT, THE ONLY REAL COLLEGE ON WEST
BANK, IS FAIRLY MAJOR STEP AND LIKE LAST WEK'S DEPORTATIONS
IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN TO LEAD TO FURTHER PROTESTS.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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